

April 2011



EU HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

www.health-inequalities.eu www.eurohealthnet.eu
www.health-gradient.eu www.equitychannel.net

Calendar of events

April

19-20 April 2011: [High Level Conference on New Challenges in the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020](#)
(Budapest, Hungary)

21-29 April 2011: [World congress on public health - Towards Global Health Equity: Opportunities and Threats](#)
(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

27 April 2011: [WHO global forum "Addressing the challenge of non communicable diseases"](#)
(Moscow, Russia)

28-29 April 2011: [First global ministerial conference on healthy lifestyles and non communicable disease control](#)
(Moscow, Russia)

29 April 2011: [EU Conference Towards the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

29 April 2011: [Conference on health and technology](#)
(Guarda, Portugal)

29 April - 1 May 2011: [The 6th World Congress of the World Institute of Pain - WIP 2011](#)
(Seoul, Korea)

May

10 May 2011: [Social innovation: European vision, local action](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

10-13 May 2011: [E-Health Week 2011](#)
(Budapest, Hungary)

12 May 2011: [Innovation in Healthcare - Improving Care, Driving Efficiency](#)
(London, UK)

Would you like to promote events or new publications of your organisation in health highlights? [Please send us your contributions!](#)

Want to express and share your views on Health equity issues?
Come and join the **Equity Channel Community** on the [Equity Channel Website](#)

EuroHealthNet launched its new Website !
Come and visit EuroHealthNet new Website at

www.eurohealthnet.eu

Main News Stories

European Commission - Public consultation on a possible successor to PROGRESS 2007-2013

The Commission has undertaken the review of its financial instruments for the next post-2013 multiannual financial framework. The EU programme for employment and social solidarity, – [PROGRESS](#) (2007-2013), is also subject to a review. DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion therefore launches a [public consultation](#) on a successor instrument. PROGRESS was established to support financially the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in employment, social affairs and equal opportunities. It aims to improve the application of EU law and achieve shared understanding and ownership of EU objectives and policies among the decision makers and stakeholders both at the EU level and in the Member States. The programme supports studies, development of statistics and data on relevant subjects, funds European observatories and awareness campaigns, and provides financial support for legal and policy practitioners, expert networks and NGOs fighting social exclusion and discrimination. It has worked to bring together policymakers at EU, national and regional levels, experts and civil society representatives. This consultation aims to collect insights and suggestions regarding the design, added value, objectives, actions, budget and delivery of such a successor instrument. It targets key stakeholders of the PROGRESS programme, in particular relevant authorities in the participating countries, including public employment services, local and regional authorities, specialised bodies provided for under Union law; social and economic partners; NGOs; higher education institutions and research institutes, experts in evaluation, and the media. It covers all PROGRESS participating countries: EU Member States, EFTA/EEA and candidate countries, and one pre-candidate country. **The online consultation is open from 4 April to 27 May.**

To know more about PROGRESS, click [here](#).
For more information, click [here](#).

- *Now from this year onwards, it is within the framework of the EU [PROGRESS programme](#) that EuroHealthNet aims to bring the knowledge and common values of health promotion and action on social determinants of health to support work towards social objectives. EuroHealthNet's mission since 1996 has been to help improve health*

12-13 May 2011: [Smart Mobility for better cities](#)
(La Rochelle, France)

13 May 2011: [The Future of Healthcare in Europe](#)
(London, UK)

19 May 2011: [A smart social inclusion policy for Europe 2020: the role of education and training](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

19-20 May 2011: [Prevention days](#)
(Paris, France)

19-20 May 2011: [3rd Spanish Conference on chronic care – Building capacity for progress: The role of clinicians](#)
(San Sebastian, Spain)

24-27 May 2011: [Green Week](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

25-27 May 2011: [European region AIDS Conference 2011- HIV in Europe – Unity and Diversity](#)
(Tallin, Estonia)

25 May -28 May 2011: [44th meeting of the European Society for Paediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition](#)
(Sorrento, Italy)

25-27 May 2011: [Global Summit of Transport Ministers to Meet in](#)
(Leipzig, Germany)

26 May 2011: [European Flu Summit](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

26 May 2011: [E-Health Congress 2011 - Innovative Support for Clinical Decision](#)
(Bucharest, Romania)

26 May 2011: [Participation in Health Promotion](#)
(Kremz, Austria)

June

9 June 2011: [Health Impact Assessment](#)
(Vienna, Austria)

9-10 June 2011 - FP7 Health: Open Information Day & Brokerage event
(Brussels, Belgium)

10-11 June 2011: [Jornadas Internacionales de Alimentación y Salud Mental de la Mujer](#)
(Madrid, Spain)

for all and tackle social and health inequities. The health of EU citizens is determined by the conditions in which they are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances, which are shaped by policy choices, are mostly responsible for health inequalities – the unfair and avoidable differences in health status between and within countries. Health inequalities persist across the EU, within and between Member States, and there is evidence that they are widening.

- In addition, PROGRESS supports six projects focusing on the Social Determinants of Health and Health Inequalities between and within EU countries, at national level. One of this project, 'Working for Equity in Health' project is a two-year project aiming to explore the relationship between work, worklessness and social protection as social determinants of health inequalities, with an assets based approach. It builds on evidence about the impact of social protection on health, and the highlighted need for further consideration of policy on growth and development in relation to health inequalities. The project is led by the Scottish government and coordinated by the Health Action Partnership International (HAPI). EuroHealthNet is responsible for the dissemination strand of the initiative. The project aims to raise awareness of health inequalities, identify effective practice in work, worklessness and social protection to help to address health inequalities, draw together the knowledge base on what works to tackle health inequalities and contribute to the development of health inequalities strategies across Europe.
- The Equity Channel Online Community – Connecting People for Fair Health - is a web portal, based on web 2.0 technologies, which provides information about health equity, the social determinants of health and the EU policies that shape them. The Equity Channel Portal and Community try to contribute to the successful achievement of national PROGRESS strategies on Health Inequalities. With this view, online groups have been created with the aim of:
 - Centralising, showcasing and disseminating the findings of participating partners;
 - Providing innovative and user-friendly tools for discussions, dissemination and interaction with other people dealing with related issues;
 - Building bridges between projects dealing with Health inequalities and the Social Determinants of Health ;
 - Providing regular updates about the EU social and employment agendas;
 - Formulating recommendations for positive and long-lasting changes.

For more information, contact [Stecy Yghemonos](#).

To access the Equity Channel Community, click [here](#).

European Commission – Competition on the new EU Research and Innovation Programme

The European Commission launches a discussion paper which proposes major changes to EU research and innovation funding to make participation easier, increase scientific and economic impact and provide better value for money. The changes, to be introduced in the next EU budget 2014-2020, would bring together the current Framework Programme for research (FP7), the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. This would feed into the discussions for the creation of the next FP8. The consultation develops the priorities for the future framework of European research and funding. As there is a high chance that public health will not be included in the EU research and innovation funding for the next budgeting period, we need to use this opportunity to advocate strongly for this and to show the importance of keeping public health in the research agenda. Based on the Green Paper consultation, specific proposals for funding programmes are due to be adopted by the Commission by the end of 2011, for a legislative decision of the Council and Parliament. **The deadline for contributions is Friday 20 May 2011.**

The Green Paper and the additional information are available [here](#).

For more information on the Innovation Union, click [here](#).

Informal meeting of Health Ministers - EU Cooperation to reduce the

14 June 2011: [World donor day](#)

16-17 June 2011: [3rd Injury prevention Conference](#) (Budapest, Hungary)

17 June 2011: [Info Day on FP7 Environment Research](#) (Brussels, Belgium)

23-25 June 2011: [Mental health care in Europe-Learning from differences](#) (Ulm, Germany)

30 June 2011: [Mainstreaming Health Promotion: Promoting Health Across Sectors](#) (Galway, Ireland)

July

12-13 July 2011: [Rights and Needs of Older Patients](#) (Warsaw, Poland)

25-27 July 2011 - [Environmental Health Risk](#) (Riga, Latvia)

August

25-26 August 2011: [Swiss Public Health Conference "Chronic diseases – A global challenge"](#) (Bale, Switzerland)

September

8-9 September 2011 – [Public Health Conference 2011](#) (London, UK)

11-14 September 2011: [17th International meeting of the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology](#) (Milan, Italy)

14-15 September 2011: [Expert conference on the ability to work, health and productivity during professional life](#) (Bregenz, Austria)

19-20 September 2011: [United Nations high-level meeting on non communicable disease prevention and control](#) (New-York, USA)

26-27 September 2011: [Assets for health and wellbeing across life course: International Conference 2011](#) (London, UK)

28 September – 1st October 2011: [7th Congress of the EU Geriatrics Medicine Society](#)

health worker migration

Health worker migration is threatening sustainability of health services, therefore, Member States have to find a common solution, EU health ministers declared at their informal meeting. Minister for National Resources, Miklós Réthelyi, pointed out that although healthcare falls within national competence, the economic crisis and demographic problems have forced Member States to face serious challenges, which "Calls for the extension and improvement of our cooperation." He said that the health sector also plays a crucial role in the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy, because, "Europe cannot be strong and competitive without healthy people". The Presidency is mainly focusing on the upgrading of the healthcare systems, and the mobility of health workers. "The migration of health workers causes more problems to donor countries than providing professionals," warned Miklós Szócska, Minister of State for Healthcare, of the Ministry for National Resources. He added that "Member States have to find a common solution and they have to agree on the ethical exchange programmes." The European Commission published a [green paper](#) in 2008 where it reviewed the general issues and problems that EU health workers have to face, which is one of the cornerstones of the Hungarian Presidency's future work.

Commissioner John Dalli advocated the importance of exchanging information and highlighted the role of research programmes, such as the Health PROMeTHEUS (Health Professionals Mobility in the European Union Study), aimed to map the migration of healthcare professionals within the EU, and between the European Union and OECD countries. The Commissioner also mentioned that the health worker training, should also receive extra attention.

Hans Kluge, Director, Division of Health Systems and Public Health, WHO/Europe, stressed the relevance of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel for the European Union (EU) and wider WHO European Region. He also emphasized the need to strengthen or establish health workforce information systems, including information on migration, in order to collect, analyse and translate data into effective health workforce policies and plans.

The joint study by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and the World Healthcare Organisation's European Office prepared was then presented. The publication titled, "Health Professional Mobility and Health Systems - Evidence from 17 European Countries," examines the flow of labour force and its impact on the healthcare systems.

For more information, click [here](#).

The study on professional mobility and health systems is available [here](#).

Results of the Public Consultation on the pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy ageing

The Final report on the public consultation on the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing carried out by the European commission has been published. With 524 contributions, the European Commission is seeking the views of public and private organisations, companies and citizens on how Europe could scale up innovation to meet the challenges of the ageing population in Europe, and in particular on a pilot European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on active and healthy ageing. Between 2010 and 2030, the number of Europeans aged over 65 will rise by nearly 40%, posing challenges, yet offering opportunities for Europe's society and economy. The EIP to be launched in 2011 will aim to improve the health and quality of life of older people; enable them to live active and independent lives; contribute to the sustainability and efficiency of health and social care systems; foster competitiveness and growth of business.

The report on the public consultation is available [here](#).

The summary elaborated by EuroHealthNet of all responses received by the European Commission is available [here](#).

(Malaga, Spain)

October

5-7 October 2011: [International symposium on health benefits of foods](#)
(Prague, Czech Republic)

5-8 October 2011: 14th European Health Forum Gastein
(Gastein, Austria)

10 October 2011: [World mental Health Day](#)

13-15 October 2011: 21st Alzheimer Europe conference
(Warsaw, Poland)

16-19 October 2011: [World Alliance for Risk Factor Surveillance \(WARFS\) Seventh Global Conference](#)
(Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

21-22 October 2011: [Evolving Challenges in promoting cardiovascular health](#)
(Barcelona, Spain)

November

2-3 November 2011: [Ageing Globally – Ageing Locally” Planning all Our Futures](#)
(Dublin, Ireland)

9-11 November 2011: 6th World Congress on Tissue Banking
(Barcelona, Spain)

10-12 November 2011: [Welfare Development and health](#)
(Copenhagen Denmark)

23-25 November 2011: [ECDC Annual meeting on antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections](#)
(Warsaw, Poland)

More online

For a full list of upcoming events, please visit the [Equity Channel calendar](#)

- *In its reply to the European Commission's consultation on the pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, EuroHealthNet highlighted the barriers to innovation in relation to active and healthy ageing. In the light of existing programmes in Member States, EuroHealthNet calls for the establishment of new innovative ways to encourage active and healthy ageing, including actions promoting physical activity and healthy diets, increasing social relations and meaningful activities while also ensuring some form of financial security for older people. Any potential benefits from the European Innovation Partnership should be distributed equitably across the whole of society. For EuroHealthNet, social inclusion, quality of life and mental health are key aspects for active and healthy ageing. At present, there is a lack of investment in health promotion and social innovation as part of healthy ageing programmes. Providing examples of initiatives implemented in Member States, EuroHealthNet aims to demonstrate that reduced social relations and social exclusion can have a damaging impact on the health of older people.*

EuroHealthNet briefing on Active and Healthy Ageing is available [here](#).

For more information, contact [John Considine](#).

Meeting of the Expert Group on Social Determinants and Health Inequalities

Experts on social determinants and health inequalities, including EuroHealthNet, met in Luxembourg. Together with the representatives from the European Commission, experts debated on how to reduce health inequalities within the EU. Among others, the project on "Joint action on health inequalities" was officially launched. This two years project will end in December 2013. Directly supported by the European Commission, it represents a direct outcome of deliberations between interested Member States and the European Commission on how to deliver a structured programme on work on health inequalities. Aiming to develop a common understanding of a health in all policies approach and its implication at European, national and sub-national level, the project looks forward a consensus to be developed on methodologies for conducting policy orientated health inequalities actions with an equity focus and health equity audits. This will be achieved by reviews of current practice and collaboratively identifying component of the tool.

- *Together with its partners and the countries involved (Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, UK), EuroHealthNet will establish a regional network that will identify through a case study approach the focus, information, resources, drivers, opportunities and barriers to regional action on health inequalities and access to structural funds. The health of EU citizens is indeed determined by the conditions in which they are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances, which are shaped by policy choices, are mostly responsible for health inequalities – the unfair and avoidable differences in health status between and within countries. Health inequalities persist across the EU, within and between Member States, and there is evidence that they are widening. EuroHealthNet previous experience and contacts established through the [Determine](#) and "Closing the gap" projects will be used to identify professionals with expertise in the area of health inequalities and social determinants of health.*

For more information, click [here](#) or contact [Claudia Marinetti](#) or [Yoline Kuipers](#).

European Commission - Launching of a consultation on the e-Health Action Plan (eHAP) 2012-2020

The second E-Health action plan (E-HAP) provides an opportunity to consolidate the actions which have been addressed to date, take them a step further where possible and provide a longer term vision for e-Health in Europe, in the context the EU 2020 Strategy, the Digital Agenda for Europe as well as Innovation Union and its associated European

WHO - Tackling antibiotic resistance from a food safety perspective in Europe

Available [here](#)

OSE-L'UE et les soins de santé: développements politiques et

juridiques de l'année 2010

Available [here](#)

International Labour organisation – OSH Management System: A tool for continual improvement

Available [here](#)

Eurostat – Health Statistics

Available [here](#)

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies - Health Systems Governance in Europe: The Role of EU Law and Policy

Available [here](#)

UN - Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health

Available [here](#)

European Agency for Safety Health at Work - Occupational safety and health in the transport sector

Available [here](#)

Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. The questionnaire forms part of the European Commission's official public consultation process. Wide consultation is one of the Commission's duties according to the Treaties and helps to ensure that proposals put to the legislature are sound. The questionnaire is open to all interested stakeholders and aims at understanding if the proposed policy objectives are in line with the aims, objectives and expectations of stakeholders. It further aims to examine if there are additional areas which require further development in the context of the action plan. Specifically, the questionnaire seeks feedback on the following goals:

- to increase awareness of the benefits and opportunities of eHealth ;
- to address the problems of interoperability of eHealth technologies ;
- to improve legal certainty for eHealth ;
- to support innovation and research in eHealth.

The consultation is open until 25 May 2011, 16.00.

For more information, click [here](#) or email [here](#).

The public consultation is available [here](#).

The Digital Agenda website is available [here](#).

European Commission - Survey on the deployment and take up of e-health solutions by specialists and/or general practitioners

The European Commission organises a survey on the deployment and take up of e-health solutions by specialists and/or general practitioners in Europe. The objective of the study is to collect measurements on the level of deployment and use of e-health services in the EU-27, Iceland, Norway and Turkey. The overall aim is to develop a better understanding of the level of progress implementing health networks and services as specified in the e-health action plan in the different countries. **The deadline still needs to be announced.**

For more information, click [here](#) or contact [here](#).

European Commission - Launching of a consultation on the strategic transport technology plan

The Europe 2020 Strategy includes the "Resource efficient Europe" flagship initiative, under which the European Commission will present proposals to modernize the transport sector and thereby contributing to increasing competitiveness and lowering emissions. This will involve transforming the transport system, promoting independence from oil, creating a modern infrastructure and multimodal mobility assisted by smart management and information systems. The Commission intends to issue a Strategic Transport Technology Plan (STTP) to present the technology areas where it pays for those involved in transport to work together. **The consultation is open until 28 May 2011.**

For more information, click [here](#).

EU News

Hungarian Presidency

Informal Ministerial Meeting on Family and Demography - "The Future of Families and the Europe 2020 Strategy"

In the frame of the Informal Meeting of Ministers for Demography and Family Policy Issues, the Hungarian Presidency emphasised the role of family policy when addressing demographic challenges. The reconciliation of work and family life is a key priority of the Presidency. At the end of the informal meeting, the Presidential Trio (Spain, Belgium, Hungary) and Poland, signed a declaration about the impact of that factor, on demographic changes. The Presidency also suggested that the European Union should declare the year 2014 as the European Year for Families. Several Member States argued that fighting poverty was the first step towards tackling demographic problems. Ministers agreed that the matter required a multi-faceted approach: it needs flexible

working conditions, gender equality in the family and adequate funding systems.

EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, László Andor, welcomed the Presidency's choice of topic: "Europe's demographic future is a key issue; we get warnings and even alarming data at times." The EU supports Member States in the field of family policy in a variety of ways, and by doing so, it serves the interests of Europe as a whole, Andor added. Mr Andor mentioned that the third report on demography published recently by the Commission and Eurostat, makes it clear that Europeans live longer and better, but the number of citizens of active working age will start to shrink next year; and birth rate is also extremely low. Andor suggested that "immigrants and a rise in the retirement age are equally needed, in order to respond to these highly complex challenges."

For more information, click [here](#).

The speech by Commissioner Andor is available [here](#).

High Level Meeting on the Future of Cohesion Policy - "Shaping the future of Cohesion Policy based on an integrated approach"

The Hungarian Presidency organised a High Level Meeting on the Future of Cohesion Policy - "Shaping the future of Cohesion Policy based on an integrated approach". Cohesion policy is important for the Hungarian Presidency, because it is an area which can have direct impact on shaping the European Union's future. Promoting competitiveness, job creation, and economic growth are goals (also for the Europe 2020 Strategy), that will remain infeasible without pursuing proper, and integrated cohesion policies. The Hungarian Presidency is ambitious that Member States come to an agreement on the core cohesion policy principles and goals before embarking on discussions about the next multi-year fiscal cycle of the EU. Therefore, Poland, which will take over the Presidency for the second half of the year, will only have to address content issues associated with the policy, including mechanisms of selecting development goals, or ensuring the efficiency of fund utilisation. The minister suggested that the past 25 years have proven the main idea behind Europe's cohesion policy, and the method of implementing it, are both appropriate, which is also justified by the results achieved by Member States. That is especially true about countries such as Hungary, who joined the EU in the most recent enlargement round. "Hungary would not have made it this far by 2011, without the EU's cohesion policy," Fellegi stressed.

Speech by Commissioner Andor is available [here](#).

European Commission

New demography report - EU population older and more diverse

The third Demography Report reveals Europeans are living longer and healthier lives. It also shows how the structure of Europe's population is continuing to change with the number of over 60s in the EU is growing by 2m each year. The report confirms recent trends and brings new data on fertility, life expectancy and migration with a special focus on mobility and migration. It shows a slight increase in fertility rates and an increase in life expectancy where, on average, Europeans are now living two to three months longer for every year.

The European Union is also becoming more diverse and family patterns are evolving with new Eurobarometer results suggesting that more and more young Europeans report work experiences in another Member State. The need to adjust EU policies to these developments is clearer than ever. The report provides timely data which will feed into the European debate on demographic change. A positive trend in the report is that fertility continues to rise slowly. It has increased from below 1.45 children per women to 1.6. However, for a population to be self-sustaining, 2.1 children per woman would be

required. The report points to modern family policies as a good way to improve employment through better reconciliation between paid work and family commitments. It shows a positive correlation between women's participation in work and higher fertility rates.

Life expectancy has also been increasing in an almost continuous and uniform trend at the rate of 2-3 months every year (in 2008 life expectancy for the EU-27 was 76.4 for men and 82.4 for women), and is the main driver behind the population ageing. At the same time, the demographic challenge is geographical with populations in four Member states (BG, LT, LV, RO) decreasing rapidly under the effects of natural growth (more people die than are born) and outward-migration. The population of Central Europe is ageing slowly at the moment but will age very fast from 2030-2040 to become the oldest population in the EU (oldest will be SK).

The report also shows how Europe's population growth is still fuelled mainly by immigration. Non-EU citizens have been joining EU countries at a rate of 1 to 2 million per year and intra-EU mobility has also increased. By 2060 the proportion of migrants and their descendants will double. Although net immigration to the EU halved following the crisis, the total number of non-EU nationals within EU borders still continued to rise. Data shows this fall has been due to a drop in migration for employment, yet there has been an increase in requests for permits for education for example. New data also show that second generation-migrants tend to achieve levels similar to locals in education and strive to reach similar levels in employment, but are still held back by high unemployment rates. This is a particular area where the EU needs to continue promoting active inclusion policies and measures to foster integration.

The Demography Report is published every two years by the European Commission and provides the latest facts and figures that are needed to assess where Member States stand in responding to the challenges of demographic change. This year the report is a joint undertaking with Eurostat, and has a special focus on mobility and migration. The report was presented during the thematic week Europe for Families, Families for Europe – Population Issues and Policies Awareness Week organised in Budapest by the Hungarian Presidency. The Commission also presented the results of a Eurobarometer survey on new Europeans. The survey was commissioned to gain insight into peoples' connectedness to other countries. Those data will feed into the debate ahead of possible communication on demography and the European Year 2012 dedicated to active ageing.

Demography Report 2010: More, older and more diverse Europeans is available [here](#).

Eurobarometer on new Europeans is available [here](#).

Frequently asked questions are available [here](#).

For more information on demography and the social situation in the EU, click [here](#).

To access the video News Release: Bridging Europe's pensions gap, click [here](#).

To access the video News Release: Ageing population, click [here](#).

Call for the expression of interest to become a member of the EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum

The Directorate General Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) of the European Commission invites non-governmental organisations and networks to apply for a membership of the EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (CSF). The composition of the CSF is on a regular basis partially renewed. **The deadline to apply is on 29th April 2011.**

School Fruit Scheme programme 2011-2012 : Distribution of EU funds

The European Commission decided on the definitive allocation of EU aid to Member States under a School Fruit Scheme for the 2011-2012 school year. This will be the third year of the Scheme's application since its launch in 2009 and 24 Member States have decided to participate in the programme with only Sweden, Finland and United Kingdom

opting out. Out of €90 million of EU funds available for the financing of the Scheme, the main beneficiaries in 2011/2012 will be Italy (€18 million), Germany (€11 million), France (€10 million), Poland (€9 million) and Romania (€8 million). The EU funds are co-financing the Scheme and must be matched by national or private contributions. The Scheme is an important EU-wide initiative in efforts to encourage healthier eating habits amongst school children as they are more likely to become lifelong habits if developed at an early age. Improved nutrition plays an important role in combating health problems related to poor nutrition, such as child obesity. In 2009/2010 school year, 4.7 million children in participating Member States benefited from the Scheme by receiving portions of fruit and vegetables in the school.

Conference on Innovation in Healthcare

The European Commission organized a conference on "Innovation in healthcare: from Research to Market", with the aim to bring together the key stakeholders of the healthcare sector to highlight and discuss the policy developments needed for research and innovation in healthcare at European and National level, in the frame of the Innovation Union and beyond. This is the second edition of the conference building on the successful event of May 2010. The objective of the 2011 conference is to produce an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) for innovation in healthcare and make specific recommendations that will be addressed to policy-makers and stakeholders.

Speech by Commissioner Tajani is available [here](#) (only in French).

Speech by Commissioner Dalli is available [here](#).

The outcome report of the previous conference held in May 2010 is available [here](#).

New research findings have positive implications for anti-smoking medication

The research, which received funding from the NEUROCYPRES project under the 'Health' Thematic area of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), moves forward our knowledge of this poison which has long remained a mystery for scientists.

The human cell membrane - the wall of a living cell - is home to over 7,000 proteins, but so far researchers have only managed to identify the structure and function of 27 of these. Ion channels are an important class of membrane proteins that are responsible for communication. Ion channels can be thought of as acting like switches, as they are shaped like microscopic pores that can open and close, and ions - charged particles - flow in or out of the cells through them. Poisons can disrupt this communication between cells in the body by blocking the ion channels. Curare's paralysing effect on the structure of ion channels has been mapped out by the researchers through a series of three-dimensional (3D) images. Using 3D knowledge of the structure of this lock, the international team, from Belgium, Russia, the Netherlands and the United States now believe that passkey medications for a class of disorders can be developed. For more information, visit [Katholieke Universiteit Leuven](#) or NeuroCypres [website](#).

Europeans making medical treatment priority for kids

PRIOMEDCHILD, backed with more than EUR 1.7 million, created a European platform for research, development and innovation of paediatric medicines by funding, coordinating and networking national programmes and researchers across Europe, now launched an EUR 8 million Joint Call. The PRIOMEDCHILD team, comprising experts from Estonia, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Finland, Sweden and the UK, targeted bolstering and streamlining national activities, and encouraging and facilitating pan-European cooperation, both in the private and public sectors. At the end of the day, public research programmes on public health priorities will be developed, bridging the gap between research and industry. Using identified research on medicines for children, the PRIOMEDCHILD partners networked and coordinated programme managers of national programmes to work together and secure a common European goal to get a joint European research programme on medicines for

children off the ground and running. Communicable diseases, treatments for specific patient groups and rare diseases are the three priority areas in question. Specifically, infectious—agents—triggered communicable diseases are one of the public's biggest health burdens, and are considered the leading cause of death in the developing world. It is imperative that researchers target measures to fight newly emerging diseases and pathogens that develop resistance to vaccines and antibiotics. Other problems that must be resolved include fighting chronic illnesses like heart disease, diabetes and depression. Published in 2010, an international call provided joint research funding for European researchers on two themes: development or use of innovative methodology in medicines for children research; and innovation of paediatric formulations and drug delivery systems. The joint call received 22 pre—proposals when the call closed on 7 January 2011. A total of 110 research groups from 12 nations made up the 22 consortia.

For more information, click [here](#).

Communication - An EU Framework for National Roma People Integration Strategies up to 2020

The European Commission published a communication aiming to set up a European framework for a national Roma integration strategy. The EU has made several proposals for Member States to promote the social and economic integration of Roma, most recently in its Communication of April 2010⁸. Member States are already under an obligation to give Roma (like other EU citizens) non-discriminatory access to education, employment, vocational training, healthcare, social protection and housing through Directive 2000/43/EC. The rigorous monitoring of the implementation of this Directive can be a useful instrument for measuring the integration of Roma people. To address this challenge, and since non-discrimination alone is not sufficient to combat the social exclusion of Roma, the Commission asks the EU institutions to endorse this EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. To access the Communication from the Commission, click [here](#).

European Parliament

Tackling Anti-microbial Resistance and Ensuring Effective and Innovative Strategies for Future Generations

MEPs Christofer Fjellner (EPP, Sweden), Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL, Portugal), Antonia Parvanova (ALDE, Bulgaria) and Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR, UK) co-hosted the European's Parliament celebration of World Health Day 2011 at the European parliament. The materials related to the conference "Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance and Ensuring Effective and Innovative Strategies for Future Generations" will be available soon.

- The Office of Health Economics report on Push and Pull incentives is available upon request to Ms [Priya Sharma](#)
- WHO Europe World Health Day materials on anti-microbial are available on their [website](#) and below

[Information for the pharmaceutical industry](#)

[Information for policy-makers](#)

[Information for health professionals](#)

[Information for farmers, veterinarians and veterinary or food safety authorities](#)

[Information for everyone](#)

For any questions or additional requests, contact [Kerrita McClaughlyn](#) or [Marion Birnstill](#).

Formal Responses to Parliamentary Questions

Healthier lifestyles for children – a Hungarian Presidency priority

Daciana Octavia Sârbu (Romania, S&D) wants to know about the specific actions the Council will take regarding healthier lifestyles for children. To what extent does the

Council feel that it can contribute to the objectives of the Commission's ongoing Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity, which includes the commitment to 'develop and support scientific information and education campaigns to raise awareness of the health problems related to poor nutrition, overweight and obesity [which] will, in particular, be addressed to vulnerable groups, such as children'?

The **Hungarian Presidency** has stated its intention to encourage children and young people to live a healthy lifestyle. This objective will be reflected during the expert-level conference entitled "Action for Prevention", organised by the Hungarian Presidency, on 30 and 31 May 2011. The conference will provide a forum for exchange of best practices and presentation of those concrete actions, awareness-raising campaigns and materials in Member States, which proved to be successful in promoting a healthier lifestyle, especially among children and young people.

E-Health - results of the Action Plan and current developments

Thomas Ulmer (Germany, PPE) reminds that the targets defined as far back as 2004 in the Action Plan entitled '[e-Health - making healthcare better for European citizens](#)' were intended to be achieved by 2010. Therefore what information has got the Commission regarding these targets and have the Member States by now developed national or regional e-Health strategies?

Mrs Kroes, responsible for Digital Agenda, underlines that on the basis of the evaluation Action Plan entitled 'e-Health - making healthcare better for European citizens', a public consultation and an impact assessment, the European Commission will prepare a new action plan before the end of 2011. Across the EU, Member States have developed and are developing national and regional eHealth strategies. The European Commission commissioned a study "[Monitoring eHealth strategies](#)" which examines this in more depth and provides a detailed overview. With regard to Member States cooperation, they have agreed to cooperate on the so-called eHealth Governance Initiative. In February 2011 the Commission has launched a call for projects under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme. The focus will be on empowering patients and supporting widespread deployment of telemedicine services. These calls are in line with Key Objective 13 of the [Digital Agenda for Europe](#) concerning eHealth.

European Programme of Food Aid for the Most Deprived Persons

Paolo Bartolozzi (Italy, PPE) asks the European Commission what are the Member States that have joined the European Programme of Food Aid for the Most Deprived Persons, given the freedom to choose whether or not to do so. In addition, Mr. Bartolozzi wants to know if the Commission should not supplement the entire programme with education and information campaigns, raising awareness among families to help organise free distribution, in cooperation with the regions, provinces and municipalities?

Commissioner Ciolos, responsible for the Agriculture and Rural Development policy, underlines that the number of Member States participating in the scheme for the free distribution of food to the most deprived persons has grown from 9 in the 2001 plan to 20 Member States in 2011. These Member States are: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Spain. The same Member States confirmed their intention to participate in the 2012 plan. The European Commission shares the opinion on the need to reduce food waste and on the role that information and communications campaigns could play to increase awareness on this issue. The impact assessment preparing the Commission's proposal for the new Basic Regulation of the Deprived Scheme (presented to the Council in 2010) also analysed the question of food waste in this context. However, it has to be stressed that the scheme, according to the principle of subsidiarity, only aims at supporting Member States, charities and the civil society in developing their own initiatives to ensure the fundamental right of all citizens to food. The way of achieving this objective should remain a choice of the Member States. Furthermore, in the proposal to the Council and the Parliament for the revision of the legal framework of the scheme, the Commission has proposed that the choice of foods to be distributed to the most deprived would no

longer be limited to those for which intervention applies but would be made according to national objectives and priorities. The reduction of food waste could be one of these priorities.

Gender equality - Equality indicators

Ms Ilda Figueiredo (Portugal, GUE/NGL) wants to know the measures have been taken recently and the existing plans aiming to measure the implementation of gender mainstreaming in all policies.

Commissioner Reding underlines that at EU level, most statistics in the employment and social domain are broken down by sex and are available on the Eurostat website. A series of specific publications on gender gaps has been published by Eurostat over the last few years. Moreover, the European Commission supports the development of specific statistics to monitor trends in, for instance, the gender pay gap or childcare coverage. The European Commission also established a database monitoring the number of men and women in key decision-making positions in order to provide reliable statistics. Since 1999, the Council of the EU has adopted a series of quantitative and qualitative indicators to follow up progress in the twelve areas identified at the UN's Fourth World conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.^[3] In addition to indicators, the Council of the EU has prepared reports and adopted political conclusions for the areas covered. In the future, work will continue in Eurostat to ensure the availability of statistics broken down by sex, as well as statistics and indicators on gender equality. Moreover, one of the main tasks of the European Institute for Gender Equality is to collect and analyse comparable data on gender issues and to develop methodological tools, in particular for the integration of the gender dimension in all policy areas. The Institute will work on the collection of data and statistics in some of the twelve areas identified at the UN's Fourth World conference on Women in Beijing. In 2011, it will focus on the area of Women and the Economy-Reconciliation between work and family life. The Institute will also work on the development of an EU gender equality index.

Commission proposals on reform of the pension system

Nikolaos Chountis (Greece, GUE/NGL) asks the Commission if it will propose to increase the pensionable age in line with life expectancy, to limit early retirement, to strengthen private insurance and gradually to remove the State's obligation to support pension systems not 'significantly affect the financial equilibrium' of social security systems, at least in certain countries in the euro zone? As social security matters are governed by the principle of subsidiarity, is not the publication of guidelines with a binding obligation for the Member States to implement them an infringement of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU?

President Barroso replies that the first Annual Growth Survey (AGS) marks the launch of the European Semester: this is a very significant step in Europe's economic governance. For a stable economic and monetary union it is necessary to have an effective ex-ante coordination of policies at EU-level. The AGS is not a binding document, but an instrument through which EU priorities are discussed collectively, and through which each Member State will bring the EU dimension into its national policy-making. The clear messages of the AGS reflect the urgency of the situation and the breadth of reforms to be pursued. The response must be coordinated at EU level but adapted to Member States' reality. The AGS gives credit to the many reforms undertaken at national level over the years and in the wake of the crisis. It acknowledges the need for each Member State to tailor its policy mix and find the trajectory of reforms which best suit their national context. The AGS presents an integrated approach which is essential to face the current fiscal and economic challenges. Pension reforms are a key component of this integrated approach hence the visibility given to them in the AGS to ensure that they are properly tackled in the National Reform Programmes in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy. Reforming pension systems is needed in order to guarantee the sustainability of public finances while at the same time providing pensioners with adequate income. The Commission last year launched a [Green Paper on Pension](#) that generated almost 1700 contributions. The outcome of this broad consultation is the basis for the Commission proposals that will be

further detailed in a White Paper on Pensions which is due for adoption in the third quarter of 2011.

Increase in the number of problem gamblers

Niki Tzavela (Greece, EFD) reminds that the number of problem gamblers in the UK has risen since 2007, while the percentage of adults playing games of chance is also on the increase, according to a survey published by the UK Gambling Commission. In view of the above, will the Commission say whether it has taken this report into consideration and how it promotes its social programmes so as to assist that part of the population facing serious problems?

Commissioner Barnier underlines that the Commission is aware of this report and shares the concerns highlighted by the Honourable Member as regards a potential increase in the proportion of the population facing problems associated with gambling. Indeed, there are social costs linked to this problem which are not only related to costs of treatment but to the effects this has on individual players and their families. Unfortunately, few Member States have carried out such studies or gathered statistics on this issue. The implementation of prevention schemes and measures to inform on risks of problem gambling are primarily the responsibility of national authorities. However, the issue of gambling addiction will be one of the issues covered by the broad consultation that was launched on 24 March 2011. Through this consultation the Commission seeks to accrue clearer information and data on a number of complex issues, including the policy objectives of Member States in this respect.

Other

European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) - Public health challenges at EU Informal Meeting of Health Ministers

The EU faces public health challenges, such as extending vaccination to currently under-immunised populations and controlling the spread of resistant bacteria. With national public health budgets under pressure, it is even more important to collaborate at EU level to achieve more with the same resources. In his [speech](#) at the Informal Meeting of EU Ministers responsible for health, ECDC Director Marc Sprenger highlighted these challenges and encouraged countries to maintain investment in public health and to work toward smarter and better cooperation. He summed up with the key measures to counter the new challenges in public health:

- National public health institutes need solid and stable budgets.
- Increased efforts are required to vaccinate vulnerable groups.
- Prudent use of antibiotics should be advocated, while simultaneously controlling the spread of new superbugs.

The theme of this meeting, hosted by the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, is 'Patient and Professional Pathways in Europe'. The topics discussed included investing in the healthcare systems of the future as well as health professionals and the preparation of the EU's new Public Health Programme.

For more information, click [here](#).

European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) - Link between public health microbiology and epidemiology necessary to tackle vaccine-preventable diseases in Europe

The impact of vaccines on Public Health was at the centre of the discussions in the conference organised by the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID). This conference brought together experts to debate the many-sided correlations between vaccines, medicine and society at the dawn of the third millennium. ECDC said there are large pockets of population susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases accumulating in the Member States and that Europe is facing many other challenges. One of them is establishing a closer link between public health microbiologists and epidemiologists at EU level. ECDC is working with a network of

laboratories across Europe and, together with Member States, has established a new training programme (EUPHEM) to develop a response capacity for microbiology inside and beyond the European Union. ECDC is committed to bring vaccine preventable diseases high on the European agenda and support WHO in its goal – the measles and rubella elimination – by:

- Continuously monitoring diseases
- Providing sound and clear information to the decision makers
- Providing evidence-based information to the healthcare professionals
- Providing convincing and transparent information to the public
- Helping EU Member States to reach the under-vaccinated populations
- Helping EU Member States improve the impact of vaccination programmes in a joint effort and across borders

Read more about [EUSCMIID](#).

Read more about [EUPHEM](#) training programme.

European Agency for safety and Health at work (OSHA) – Survey on the technologies that will shape “green jobs” by 2020

The European Agency for safety and health at work (OSHA) seeks to identify the key new technologies that may be found in green jobs by 2020 and that will impact workers' safety and health. It has already drawn a list of 26 new technologies as a result of a literature review and is now seeking opinions on these technologies. What are their actual potential for development and their effect on safety and health by 2020? Are there any other new technologies that could be in green jobs by 2020 that we have missed and should be included in the study?

The Agency therefore launches a [web survey](#) that will remain open until mid-April. The results of this survey will be the basis for a workshop in May in which we will select about 8 key technologies together with OSH experts, technology experts and policy-makers.

For more information, click [here](#).

Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC)- Call for expressions of interest for experts

The 2008 Call for expressions of interest for experts in the area of public health has expired in February 2011. The [new 2011 Call for expressions of interest for experts](#) is now published. The call remains open maximum for the duration of the EU Health Programme (until the end of 2013). Any person interested may submit an application during this period, with the exception of the last 3 months. The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers will draw up a list of applicants who meet the eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria set out in the Call. The experts on the list may be offered a contract to support activities, as described in the Call, in connection with the EU Health Programme.

For more information, click [here](#).

European Health Award

The call for applications for the 5th edition of the European Health Award has been opened. The European Health Award was initiated with the intention to promote health policy initiatives with an European scope, that have contributed in a significant way to meet such European health challenges as inequality and disparities in health status, access to health services and/or the provision of treatment within Europe. The winner of the 5th edition of the European Health Award will receive a prize with a value of 10.000 € in a celebrating ceremony at European Health Forum Gastein in October this year. **The deadline for submissions of projects and initiatives is 6th June 2011.**

The announcement of the award, including the application form can be downloaded [here](#). For more information, click [here](#).

European Haemophilia Consortium - For multi-stakeholder

partnerships to drive better access to treatment for all

Participants at the 12th European Haemophilia Consortium (EHC) Round Table discussed the importance to involve patient organizations and medical communities to join forces and agree on a common approach for optimal care of Haemophilia. The Round Table's timely debate took place just a few weeks ahead of the World Haemophilia Day (WHD - 17 April) and addressed the importance of engaging patients in the treatment of their disease to improve the diagnosis, treatment and strengthen the Haemophilia community. It was agreed that multistakeholder partnerships, information and education on the disease are key to improve health outcomes.

For more information, click [here](#).

European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) – Annual Conference: "Europe 2020: Delivering a healthy and sustainable future for all?" 14 April 2011

The European Public Health Alliance organised its 2011 Annual Conference in Brussels - "Europe 2020: Delivering a healthy and sustainable future for all?" The Conference discussed whether the EU leading strategy (Europe 2020) is set to achieve better health outcomes or if it threatens to increase health inequalities. The event gathered experts from across Europe to discuss the impact of specific EU 2020 policies on equality within our societies and the effects across the social gradient. It addressed the causes and the consequences of health inequalities, in particular the social determinants of health and it will gather multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral recommendations for policy makers. The final conclusions were drawn by Sir Michael Marmot and EuroHealthNet director Clive Needle.

For more information, click [here](#).

To access the press release, click [here](#).

National and local news

Belgium – ERIO (European Roma Information Office)

On behalf of the Belgian government, ERIO (European Roma information office) is currently collecting signatures through an online petition in order to demonstrate the need for the creation of a Belgian Roma Council that will function as a tangible link between the national government and Roma communities living in Belgium. This in turn, will guarantee the participation of Roma, Sinti and Travellers in Belgian policy making and provide them the opportunity to act as equal citizens.

The petition is available [here](#).

France - Second report on the implementation of the national cancer action plan

This report summarizes measures taken under the national cancer action plan in France. Actions are linked to the national action plan on occupational health (plan santé travail) and the national health and environment action plan (plan santé environnement). Amongst other initiatives, such as the improvement of health surveillance and the monitoring systems, two targeted labour inspection campaigns were conducted between June and December 2010, regarding protection from radiation and chemical risks in the automobile and cleaning sectors. Funding programs promoted targeted actions against occupational exposures. The plan also touches on the measures to keep at work or reintegrate workers who have suffered a cancer disease.

For more information, click [here](#).

France – INPES - To reduce social inequalities in health

The « *Institut National de Prévention et d'Éducation pour la Santé* » (INPES) published a report on « How to reduce social inequalities in health? » where it underlines that all indicators show that social inequalities increase. Since its creation, INPES has been deeply involved in this field, which is one of the pillars of the whole health promotion

strategy promotion as well as of any programs for the health prevention or education. Health prevention, promotion and education have to involve everybody for equity. However, in practice, the most advantaged social classes get advantages out of this. One of the missions of INPES is to bring an expertise to professionals faced with inequalities, whatever the field they work in. This report is therefore addressed to them. The aim is to bring knowledge scientifically validated and assessed practices. The report does not content any normalized responses and does not bring any definitive solutions. It is a guide.

For more information, click [here](#)

France – INPES – What are the need of old and handicapped people in the field of health?

The National Gerontology Foundation (*Fondation nationale de gérontologie-FNG*) published a report related to the needs of old and handicapped people in the field of health. This research called RHISAA (*Recherche qualitative exploratoire Handicaps – Incapacités – Santé et Aide pour l'Autonomie*) carried out studies on people who need human help for daily life. The aim os to explore needs in the field of health and show that the system is not adapted.

Both volumes (2) of the report are available [here](#) and [here](#) (in French).

Scotland - Deaths: most frequent causes of death

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) published data showing that the most common causes of death in Scotland are cancer, heart disease and stroke. However, a large number of different diagnoses make up these broad groupings, and it is of interest to look at the most frequently occurring *individual* causes of death, especially as regards the difference in causes of all deaths, and those of premature deaths. Although many of the same causes feature (for instance, lung cancer, acute myocardial infarction and chronic ischaemic heart disease), the third most common cause of death under 65 is alcoholic liver disease, which accounted for more than 6% of all premature deaths between 2007 and 2009 (more than 700 per year on average). Other differences include the inclusion of other alcohol related factors, mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids and suicide ("intentional self-harm by hanging, strangulation and suffocation").

For more information, click [here](#).

Scotland - An atlas of tobacco smoking in Scotland: A report presenting estimated smoking prevalence and smoking attributable deaths

The atlas and its supporting appendices present estimates of current smoking prevalence in Scotland at a variety of geographical levels. Smoking prevalence estimates are provided for NHS boards, councils, community health partnerships (CHPs) and Scottish parliamentary constituencies and also for intermediate zones and postcode sectors. The estimates were produced by Professor Graham Moon and colleagues at Portsmouth University by applying a multilevel synthetic estimation procedure to data from the 2003/04 Scottish Household Survey and the 2001 census. In addition to the smoking prevalence estimates, the atlas also includes estimates of smoking-attributable deaths for individual NHS boards and CHPs in order to illustrate the burden of smoking-related harm within Scotland. The atlas will be a valuable resource when used in conjunction with local knowledge, to support smoking cessation and prevention activities within NHS boards, CHPs and councils across Scotland.

For more information, click [here](#)

Switzerland – Health Promotion Switzerland - Friendly Work Space Label – Open trainings

Health promotion Switzerland organizes trainings for responsible for projects, consultant offices and any other interested persons for Friendly Work Space labels. The aim is to show how to set up quality criteria for health management within enterprises. These

trainings are intended to 3 to 15 persons on 10 November 2011 in Lausanne.

For more information, click [here](#).

Wales - Mental Health Services in Wales: a guide for independent members

One of the desired benefits of the restructuring of NHS Wales was to give greater focus and attention to mental health services and their improvement across the whole range of services. This document has been produced by the Welsh NHS Confederation as a high-level guide for independent members to support them in discharging their governance responsibilities as board members in the area of mental health. The guide is split into two sections focusing firstly on the basic building blocks of a good mental health service and secondly, the challenges facing NHS Wales as it seeks to implement and improve upon these building blocks. Throughout the guide is a continuous emphasis on the value of promoting mental wellbeing and preventing mental illness, treating patients in the least stigmatising environment, and ensuring excellent links with services and agencies outside of health, such as employment, housing and leisure.

The guide is available [here](#).

For more information, click [here](#).

Wales - Obesity and alcohol costs to NHS

A study, by academics from Swansea University, has estimated the cost of excessive alcohol consumption to the Welsh NHS to be between £69.9m and £73.3m. The findings show that the NHS in Wales spends over a £1m a week on treating health problems caused by alcohol misuse and another £1m each week on treating obesity. But the study also cautions that the true cost of both obesity and excess alcohol consumption to the Welsh NHS could be higher.

To access the press release, click [here](#).

The "Assessing the costs to the NHS associated with alcohol and obesity in Wales" is available [here](#).

Wales - Reducing health inequities

The action plan *Fairer Health Outcomes For All: Moving the Agenda Forward* takes forward a key element of Wales' public health framework Our Healthy Future to tackle avoidable and unfair differences in health. Such differences can arise through people adopting unhealthy lifestyles, such as smoking, alcohol misuse, unhealthy diets and inactivity, or when things such as service provision or taxation policy unfairly impact on an individual.

For more information, click [here](#).

Other international news

World Health Day: fight against antimicrobial resistance must continue on a global scale

This year's World Health Day focuses on the growing threat of potentially deadly bacteria developing resistance to antimicrobial drugs - especially to antibiotics. The Commission joins the World Health Organisation in calling for strengthened efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance, which is a global health hazard. In the Union alone, it is estimated that drug resistant infections cause more than 25,000 deaths and 1.5Bn€ in extra healthcare costs every year.

Following on from the 2001 'Community Strategy against Antimicrobial Resistance', the Commission has developed a series of initiatives to tackle this issue. The success of

many modern treatments, including organ transplants, cancer therapy and care of preterm babies depends in part upon effective solutions to the problem of antimicrobial resistance. So under the Seventh Framework Programme for research, the EU is funding work on prevention and control, aiming among other things to identify new resistant organisms, develop new drugs, provide faster diagnostic tests and analyse the effects of clinicians' prescribing practices. More needs to be done and the Commission is currently developing a new strategy. Health is also a right for all people in the world. With a yearly budget of €700 million euro, it constitutes a key area of action for the Commission.

European Antibiotic Awareness Day takes place on 18 November every year since its launch in 2009. It is coordinated by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and aims to raise awareness about the risks related to the inappropriate use of antibiotics and how to take antibiotics responsibly.

For more Information, click [here](#).

For more information on World Health Day, click [here](#).

European Conference on Tobacco or Health – Presentation of the 5th Edition of the Tobacco Control Scale in Europe

All documents and statements related to the European Conference on European Conference on Tobacco or Health, held on 28-29-30 March are available [here](#).

WHO - New evidence on health effects of traffic-related noise in Europe

Traffic-related noise accounts for over 1 million healthy years of life lost annually to ill health, disability or early death in the western countries in the WHO European Region. This is the main conclusion of the first report assessing the burden of disease from environmental noise in Europe, released today by WHO/Europe. Noise causes or contributes to not only annoyance and sleep disturbance but also heart attacks, learning disabilities and tinnitus. Among environmental factors in Europe, environmental noise leads to a disease burden that is second in magnitude only to that from air pollution. One in three people experiences annoyance during the daytime and one in five has disturbed sleep at night because of noise from roads, railways and airports. This increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases and high blood pressure. The new publication presents the results of an international study, coordinated by WHO/Europe and supported by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) that reviews the evidence on health effects, provides guidance to quantify risks from environmental noise and estimates the burden of disease in western European countries.

The report is available [here](#).

WHO-Impact of economic crises on mental health

WHO has published a report on the impact of economic crisis on mental health. It is well known that mental health problems are related to deprivation, poverty, inequality and other social and economic determinants of health. Economic crises are therefore times of high risk to the mental well-being of the population and of the people affected and their families. The economic crisis that started in 2007 has continued to pose major challenges in the WHO European Region. It has led to significant declines in economic activity, a rise in unemployment, depressed housing markets and an increasing number of people living in poverty. The rise in national debt is forcing governments to implement severe cuts in public spending. Significant risks remain in the world economy, and many countries are facing an era of austerity in health and welfare services. The focus on social and economic determinants of the forthcoming new European health policy, Health 2020, will acknowledge these new life circumstances. It will stress that health objectives are influenced by a range of social objectives that require action across many sectors. This notion is especially important in times of economic crisis, because policy actions in sectors other than health can amend some of the health effects of the crisis. Targeted investment in public services that are crucial for many people's well-being can ameliorate the social and economic determinants of health and the associated health disparities. The integrated response across policies must include accessible health

services, with a focus on primary care response.

The report is available [here](#).

UNAIDS - Challenges, achievements and aspirations to be shared as civil society gears up for General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS

More than 400 civil society representatives have come together at the United Nations in New York for a one-day hearing on progress made in the HIV response. The event is an opportunity for United Nations Member States to engage with civil society representatives and people living with HIV to highlight some of the challenges, achievements and aspirations in the AIDS response and find new ways of moving forward. The hearing is being held as UN Member States begin consultation on the drafting of a new outcome document on HIV, to be adopted at a United Nations High Level Meeting on AIDS in June. At the 2006 High Level Meeting on AIDS, countries set goals towards achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Although great strides have been made in the response since that time, not all countries have reached their universal access targets. At the hearing civil society organizations highlighted the need for a strong new declaration, rejuvenated political commitment and revitalized targets to ensure countries scale-up to reach their universal access goals. Civil society members also stressed the importance of fostering dialogue between communities and constituencies. They highlighted that dialogue between women's groups, young people, people of different faiths and cultures, and marginalized groups is essential to reduce stigma and discrimination and remove barriers to scaling-up the response.

The United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS will be held from the 8-10 June in New York.

More information can be found [here](#).

USA - Leading Health Indicators for Healthy People 2020

The US Government's *Healthy People* initiative aims to improve the health of Americans. The Institute of Medicine released *Leading Health Indicators for Healthy People 2020*, prioritising 12 health indicators and 24 health objectives among 42 topics and nearly 600 objectives. Those health indicators are access to care services, quality of health-care services, healthy behaviours, physical environment, social environment, chronic disease, mental health, injury, maternal and infant health, tobacco use, substance abuse, and responsible sexual behaviour. Several objectives are targeted for reduction: deaths from cancer (563 875 in 2007) and coronary artery disease (one of every six US deaths), tobacco use (one of five preventable deaths), adolescent pregnancies (10% of US births), central-line-associated bloodstream infections (the third most common health-care associated infection), the proportion of adults with hypertension (74.5 million), the proportion of obese children (one in seven low-income, preschool-aged children), and the proportion of people who have major depression (one of 13).

Increases are planned in objectives focused on health literacy (90 million of US adults are considered health illiterate), the proportion of adults who get sufficient sleep (50—70 million have chronic sleep insufficiency), the proportion of sexually active people who use condoms (use is as low as 17% among white adults), and the proportion of adults who are physically active (10% are not active at all and 60% do not exercise regularly). Objectives for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health are addressed for the first time in the report. They include an increase in their health insurance coverage (they are twice as likely to be uninsured when compared with a heterosexual partner) and a reduction in obesity (lesbians and bisexual females are more likely to be overweight). The report's objectives must be implemented and work together with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 to improve Americans' access to health-care services and the quality of health care. This will require coordinated interplay of health players at the federal, state, and local level.

Starting in 1990, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued a national agenda aimed at improving the health of all Americans over the 10-year span. At the request of HHS, the IOM identified a set of leading health indicators that could be used by Healthy People 2020 and developed a conceptual framework within which the topics, indicators, and objectives would be developed or selected.

The report Leading Health Indicators for Healthy People2020 is available [here](#).
For more information, click [here](#).



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For more information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/progress>

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^[3] <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=765&langId=en>. The twelve critical areas of concern are as follows: Women and Poverty, Education and Training of Women, Women and Health, Violence against Women, Women and Armed Conflict, Women and the Economy, Women in Power and Decision-making, Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women, Human Rights of Women, Women and the Media, Women and the Environment, The girl child.